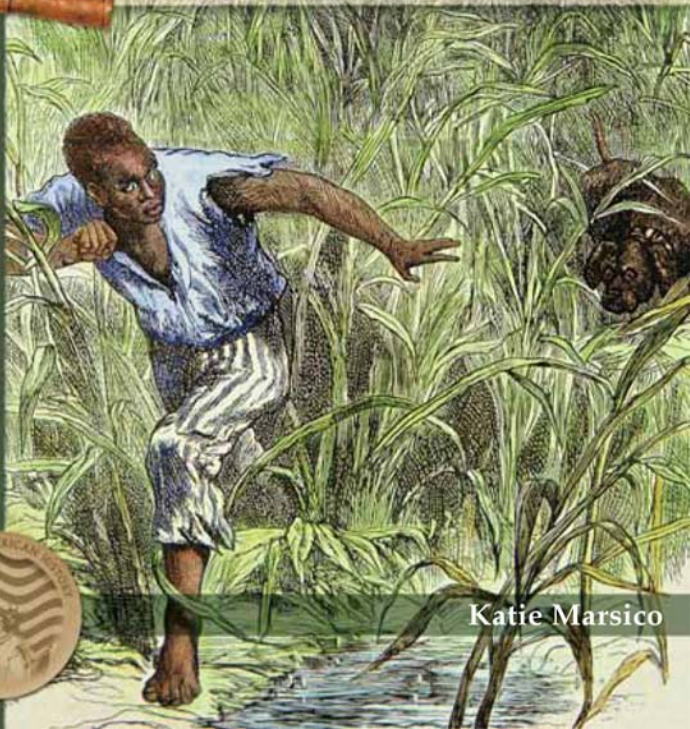


SLAVERY IN AMERICA



Katie Marsico

VISIT...

LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM

SLAVERY IN AMERICA



by Katie Marsico

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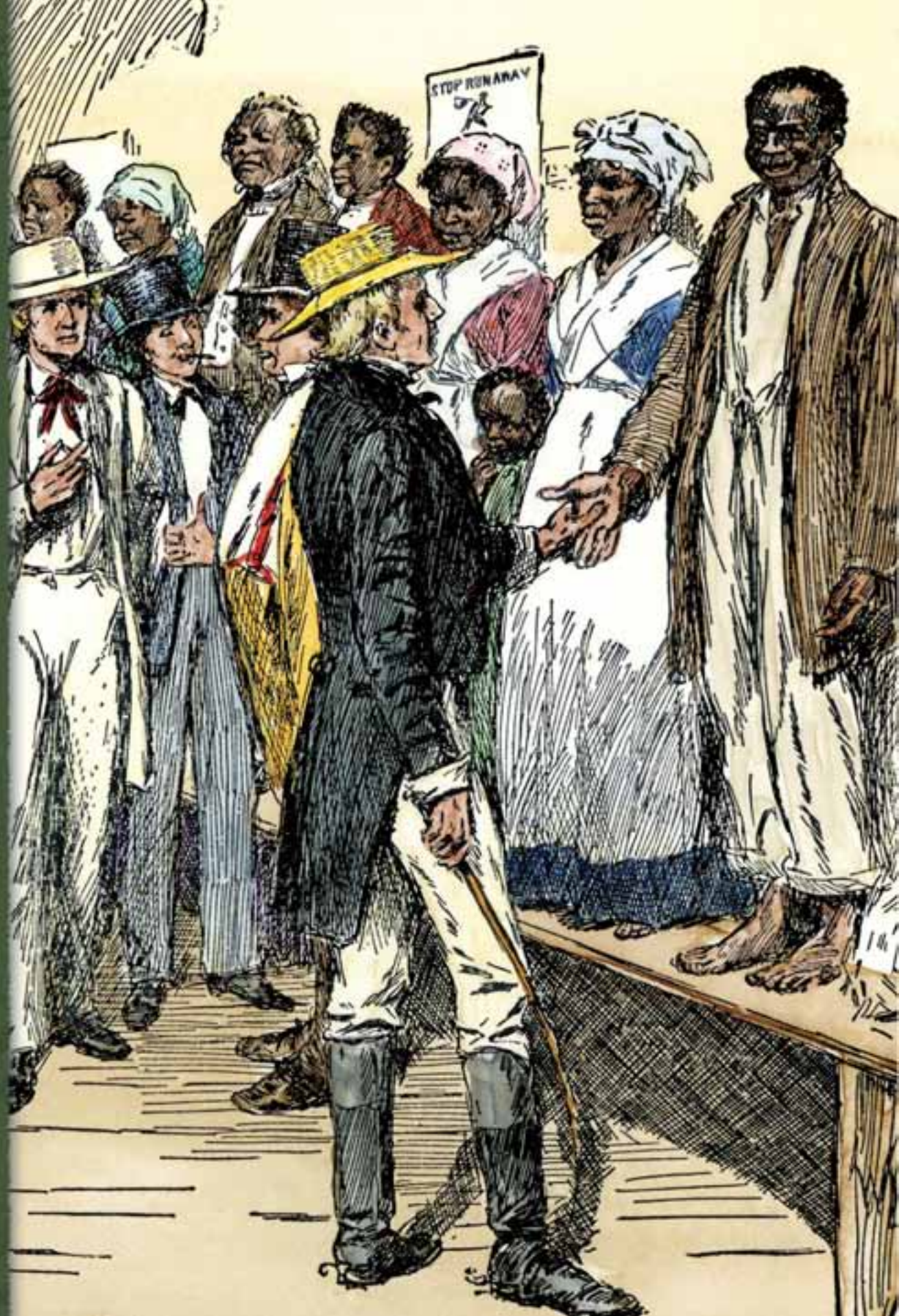
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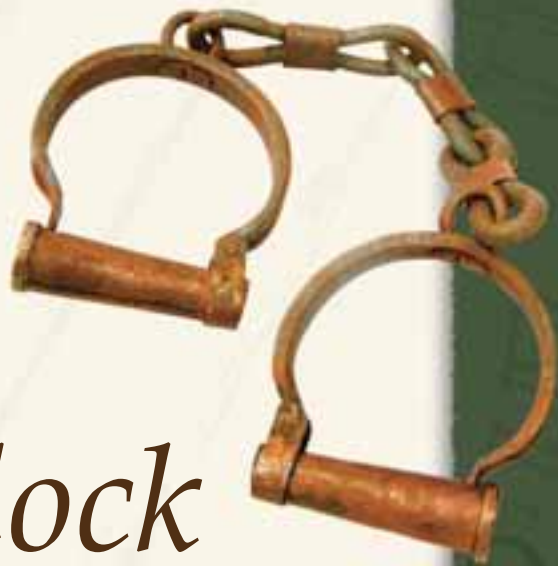
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Chapter One

On the Auction Block



Visitors from across the South swarmed to Savannah, Georgia in early March 1859. Hundreds of guests booked rooms at local hotels. Then they headed to a racecourse outside the city. The event that drew such huge crowds was an auction—436 slaves were being sold.

The auction began on March 3. Buyers inspected the slaves the same way they might check a horse. The buyers pried open the slaves' mouths to check their teeth, pinched their muscles, and made them walk around. Auctioneers only cared about making as much money as possible. Sometimes they sold husbands, wives, and their children together. However, there were no promises that this would happen. Often families were ripped apart.

How did the enslaved men and women feel? How did they react to being inspected by strangers? They had to

Slaves were treated as property and sold at auctions.

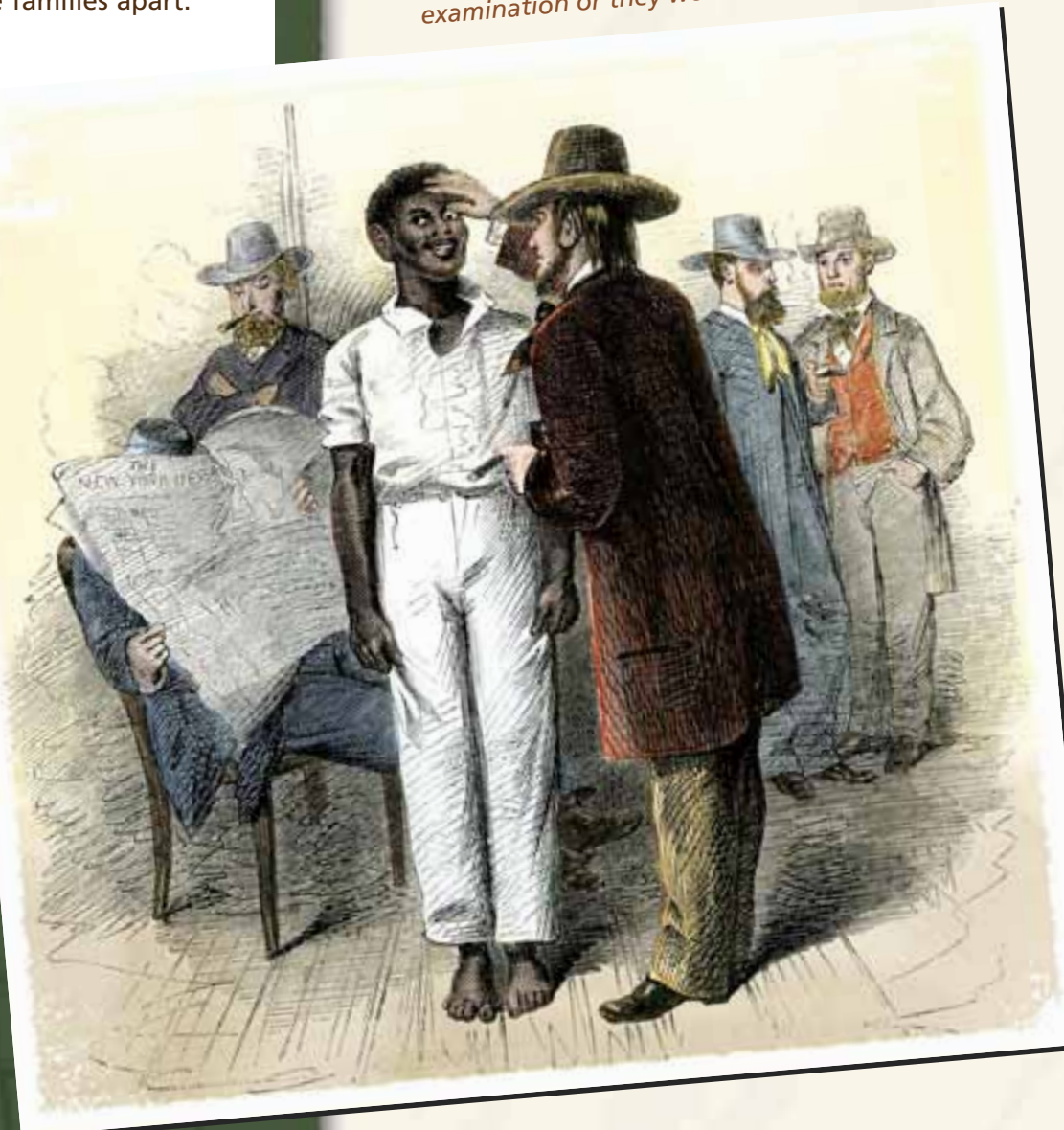
THE WEEPING TIME

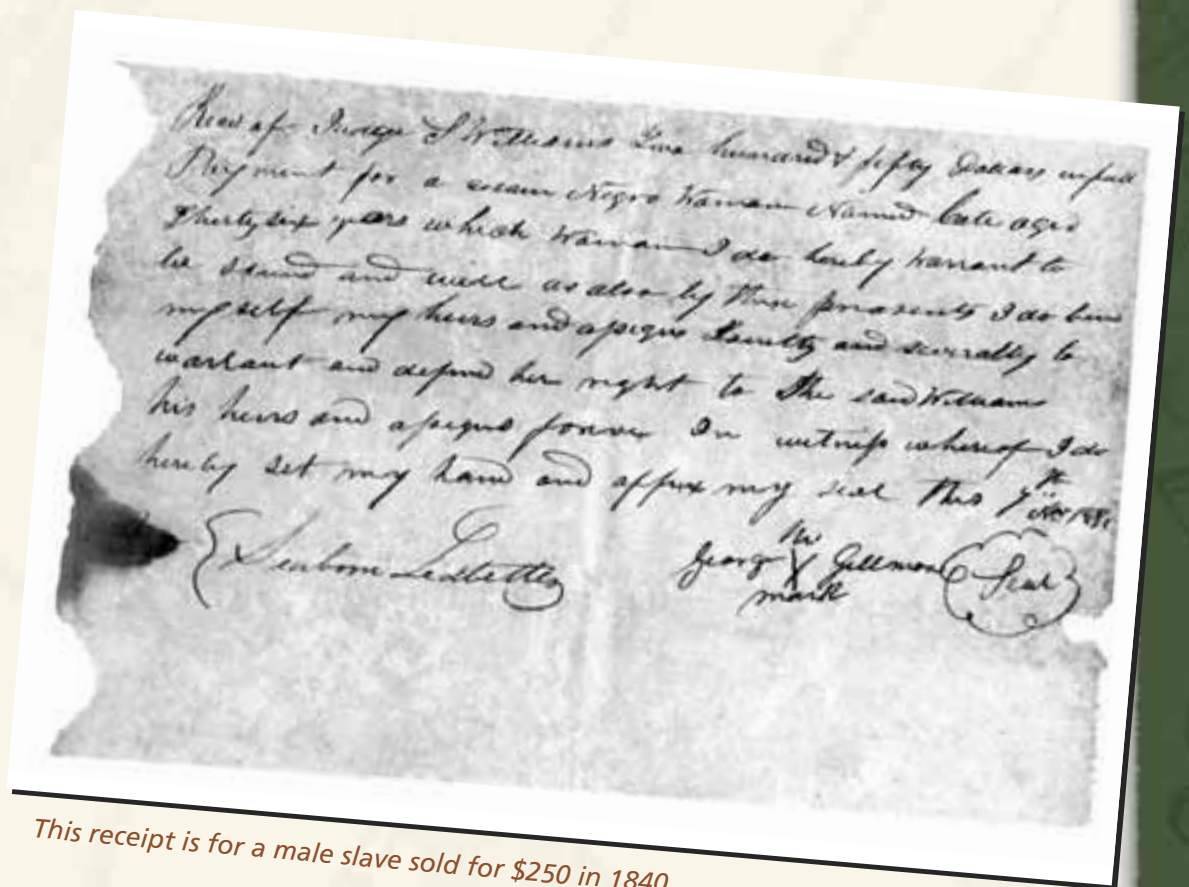
The slave auction in Savannah in March 1859 was one of the largest in U.S. history. It has been called the *Weeping Time*. The auction tore hundreds of slave families apart.

obey the white buyers and sellers. Auctioneers could not sell someone who appeared rowdy or disobedient. They were quick to whip anyone who seemed rebellious.

Sometimes whips were not

Potential buyers inspected slaves as they would inspect a horse. Slaves had to allow the examination or they would be punished.





This receipt is for a male slave sold for \$250 in 1840.

needed. Many of the 436 individuals wanted to impress future owners. They hoped their new owners would treat them with kindness. They desperately wished that their families would not be split apart. However, they had no control over their futures. The slaves only knew that they would always be treated as property.

In the 1800s and earlier there were many debates about slavery in the United States. Slavery was important to the nation's economy. This was especially true in the South. There slaves worked on cotton and tobacco **plantations**. Northern factories made cloth from cotton grown by

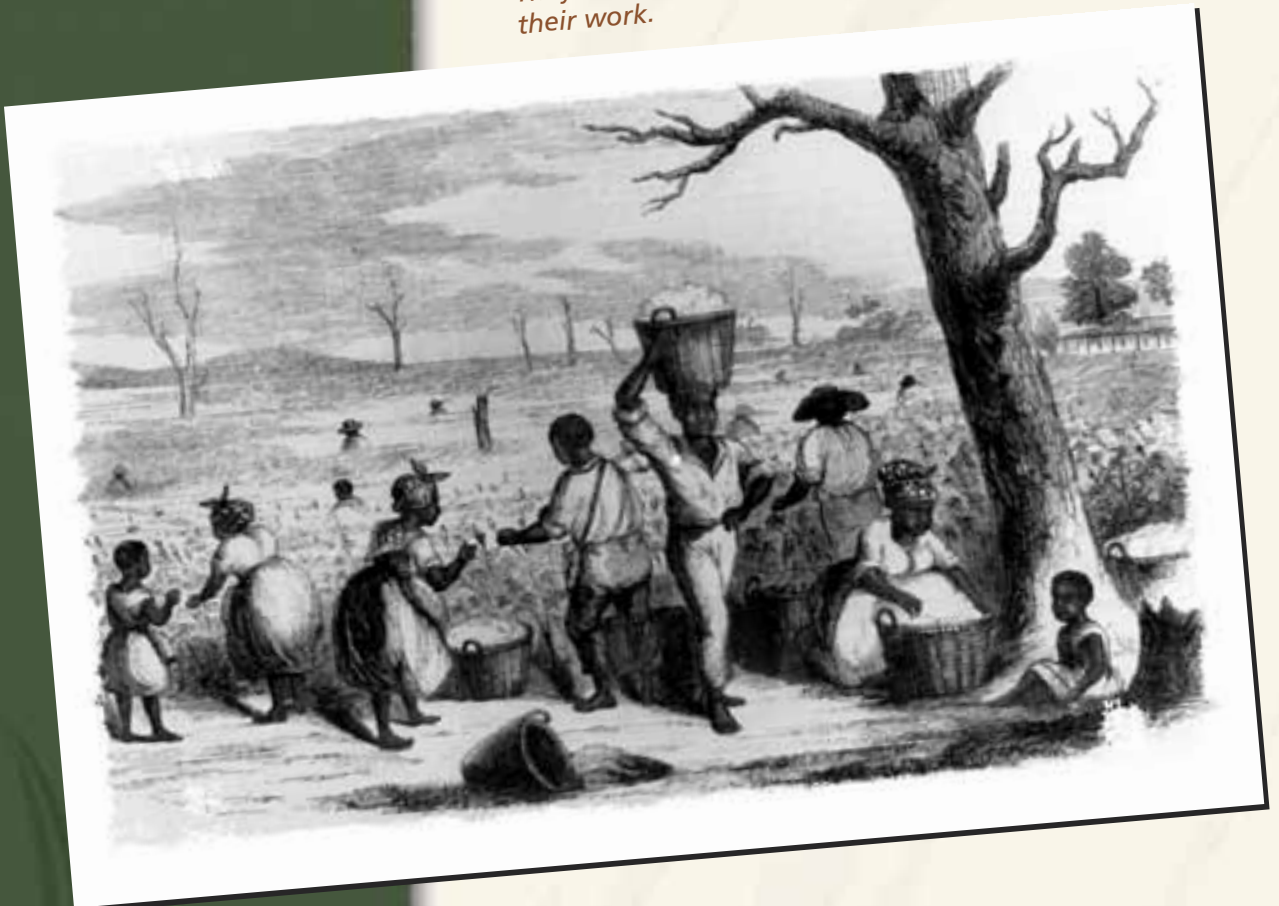
CRUELTY FOR MONEY

A fit, able-bodied male slave in his twenties was worth \$1,600 in the 1850s. This is more than \$35,000 in today's dollars. The March 1859 auction brought in \$303,850, which is more than 6 million dollars today.

slaves. Slavery was a huge part of the culture in some places. There had been slaves in the colonies since the 1600s. However, some people believed that slavery was wrong. They believed that one person should not own another.

The issue had grown more

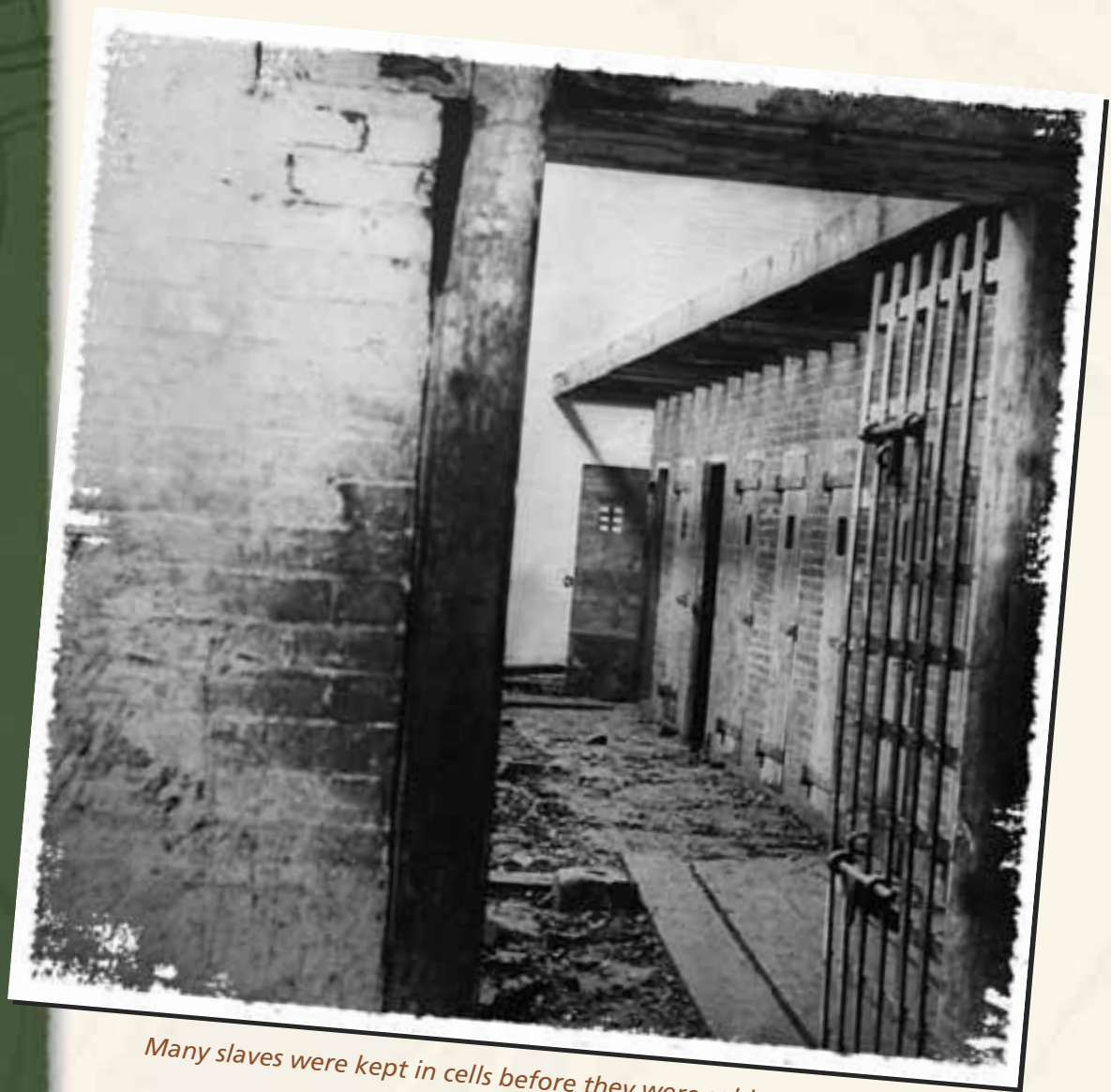
The Southern economy relied on cotton and slave labor. Most slaves worked long hours in the hot fields. They lived in poor conditions and were not paid for their work.





Throughout the 1800s, the nation debated whether slavery was right. This image appeared with many antislavery writings.

complicated by the time the Civil War began in 1861. Some people argued that owning another human being and treating that person as property was cruel. Unfortunately, many slave owners did not consider nonwhites to be human beings.



Many slaves were kept in cells before they were sold.

Some believed that slavery was good for Africans because it taught them Christianity and Western civilization. Some slave owners did not view themselves as cruel or greedy. Some treated their slaves kindly, similar to family members. Nonetheless, slaves under the kindest masters were still not free.

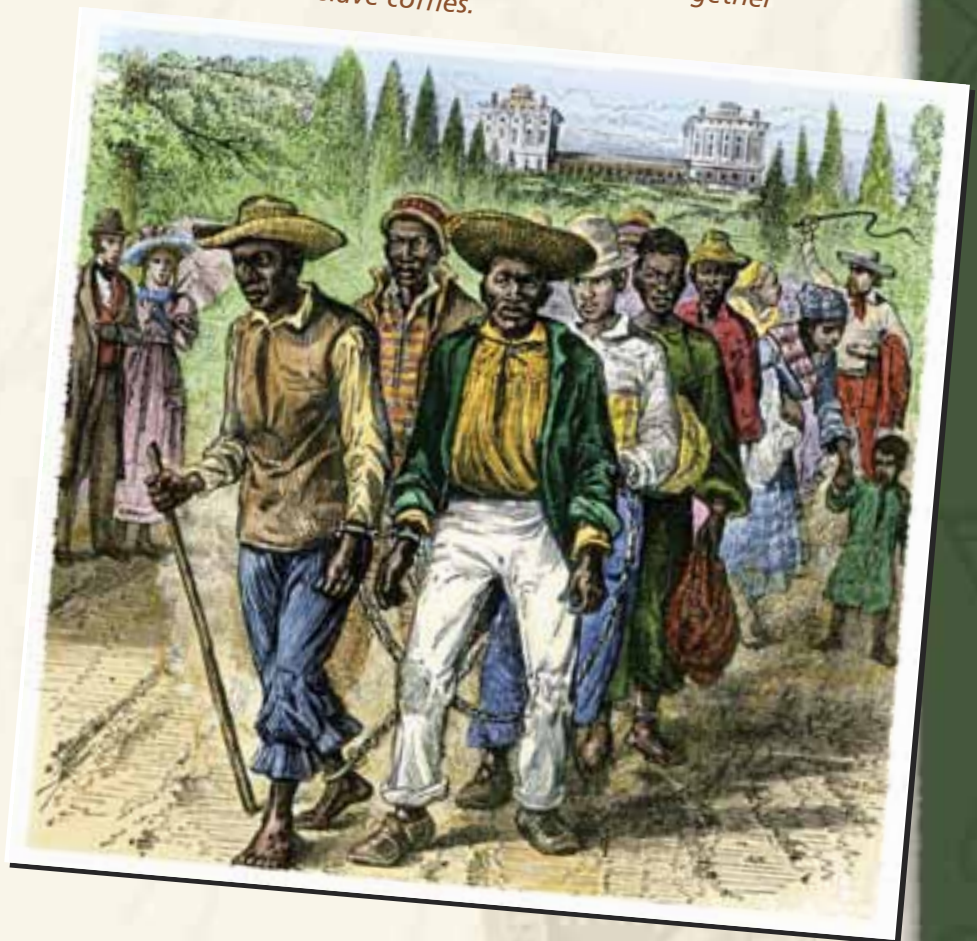
Africans in North America suffered from slavery for more than 200 years. Countless lives were affected by

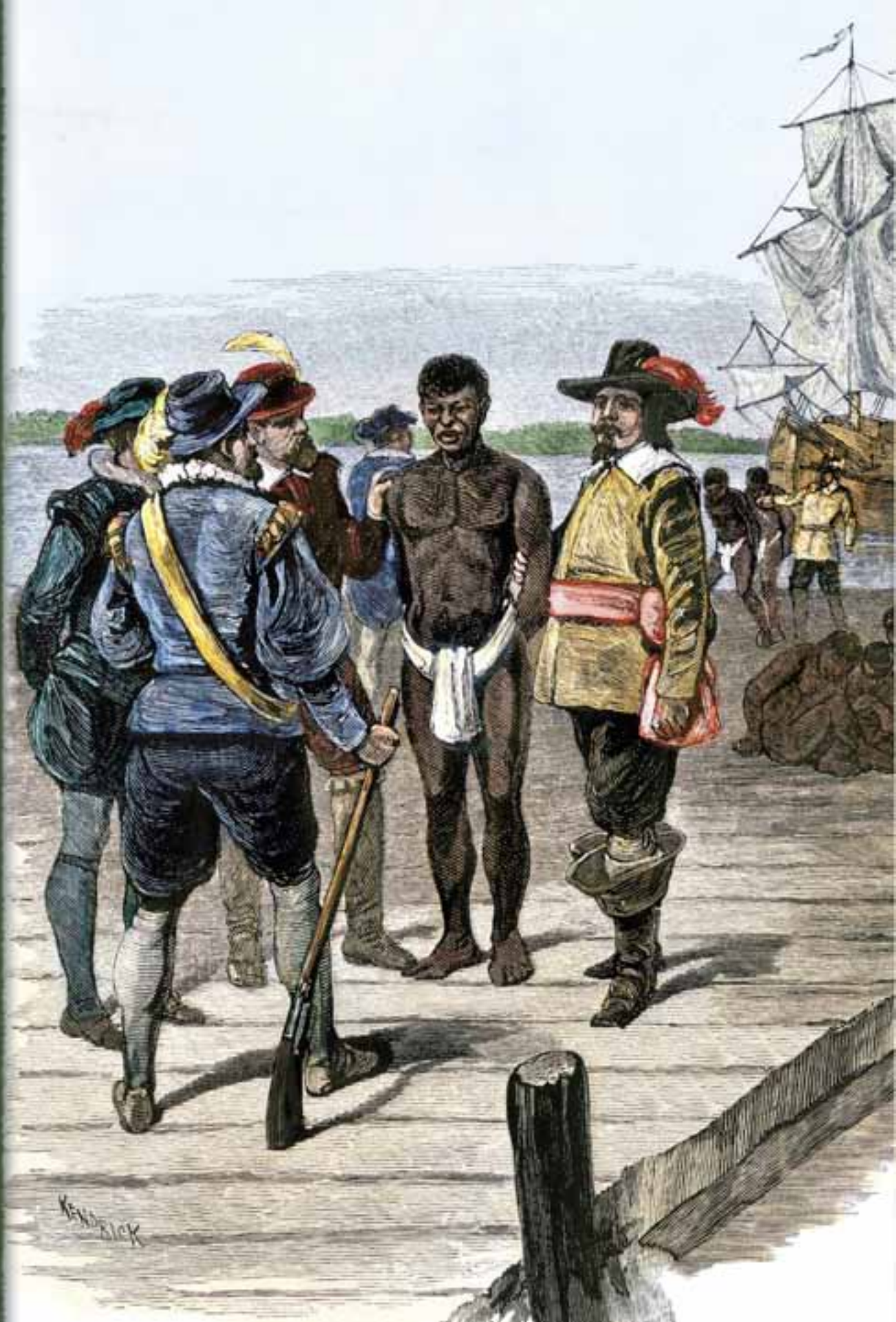
slavery: the men and women who labored on plantations, the southern slave owners, the northern **abolitionists** who fought to end slavery, and many others. It was a dark chapter in U.S. history. Slavery shaped the future of the country and the definition of the word *freedom*.

"The expression on the faces of all who stepped on the block was always the same and told of more anguish than it is in the power of words to express. Blighted homes, crushed hopes, and broken hearts [were] the sad story to be read in all the anxious faces."

—New York Daily Tribune

Slaves were often marched to auction chained together in long lines called slave coffles.





Chapter Two

The Start of Slavery



Slavery is often remembered for its part in the Civil War. Yet slaves were present in North America long before the 1800s. Slavery was present on the continent as far back as the seventeenth century. At first, not all forms of forced labor involved Africans.

British colonists used **indentured servants** to work on their farms and assist in their shops. Indentured servants usually had no money to travel to the colonies. They worked for four to seven years to pay for their voyage to North America, to look for a better life. At the end of this time they became free. Some European indentured servants chose to come to North America. Others were forced to come to the continent as punishment for crimes. The first Africans in North America were indentured servants. They also became free after a certain amount of time.

The first Africans arrived in Jamestown in the early 1600s.

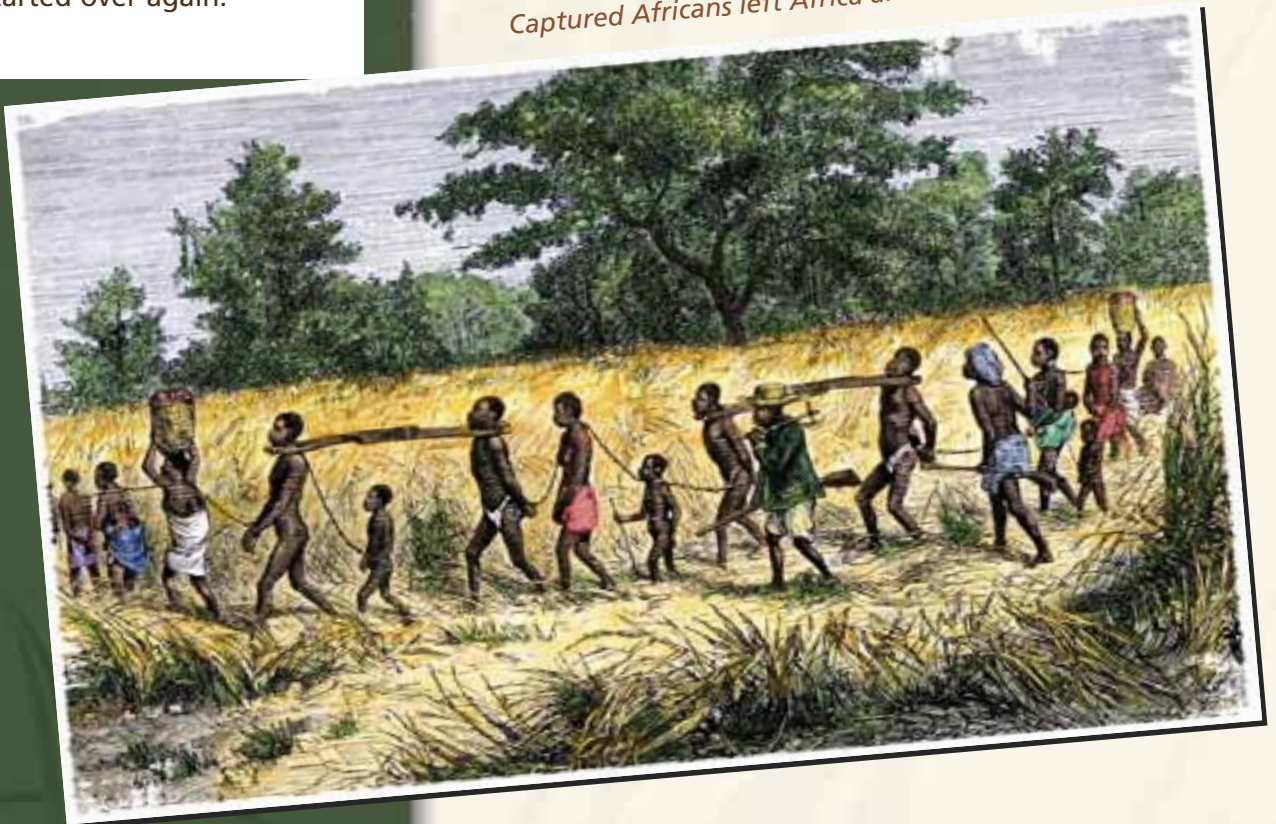
THE TRIANGULAR TRADE

The cycle of trade between Europe, Africa, and the Americas is known as the triangular trade. First, Europeans traded manufactured goods in exchange for enslaved people in Africa. After surviving the voyage the enslaved Africans were sold for sugar, tobacco, and cotton in the Americas. Finally, traders took those products back to Europe, where the cycle started over again.

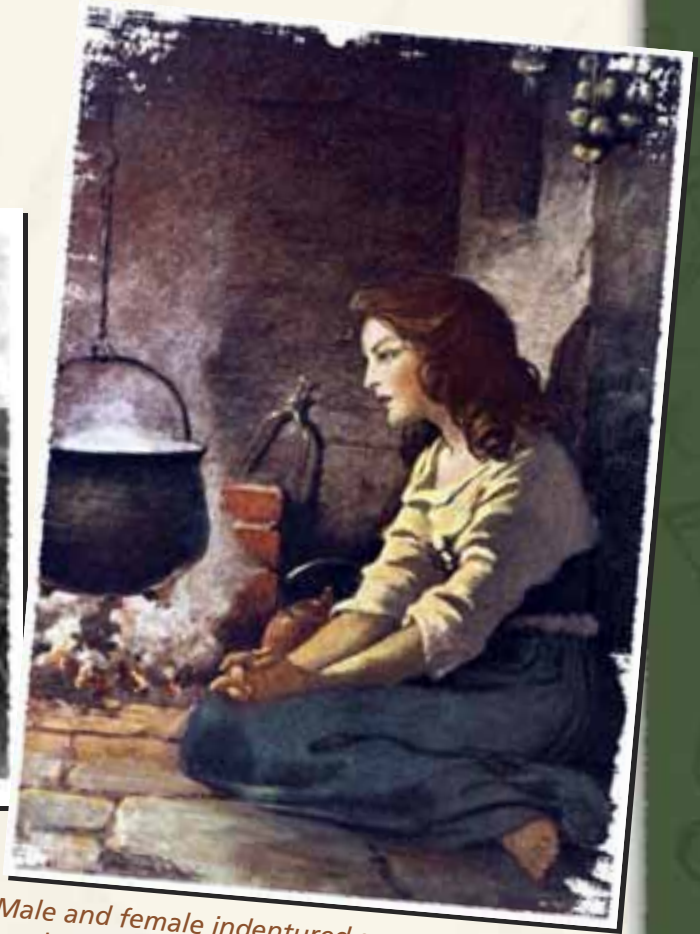
Some colonists tried to enslave the native tribes for labor. These people were difficult to enslave. European diseases killed large numbers of native tribespeople. Plus, the local tribes' knowledge of the land helped them to escape.

By the late 1600s British colonists needed more laborers. There were not enough people to do all the jobs in the growing colonies. Colonists

Captured Africans left Africa and became slaves.



Captured Africans were packed into ships to cross the Atlantic Ocean.



Male and female indentured servants worked in the colonies and were set free after a set amount of time.

began bringing more captured people from Africa. The Atlantic slave trade brought between 600,000 and 650,000 Africans to the 13 British colonies from 1700 to 1775.

"[The slaves] were manacled together in twos and threes. . . . [A] number of them [were] in different stages of suffocation; many of them were foaming at the mouth and in the last agonies—many were dead. A living man was sometimes dragged up, and his companion was a dead body; sometimes of the three attached to the same chain, one was dying and another dead."

—Reverend Robert Walsh, describing conditions onboard a slave ship

THE MIDDLE PASSAGE

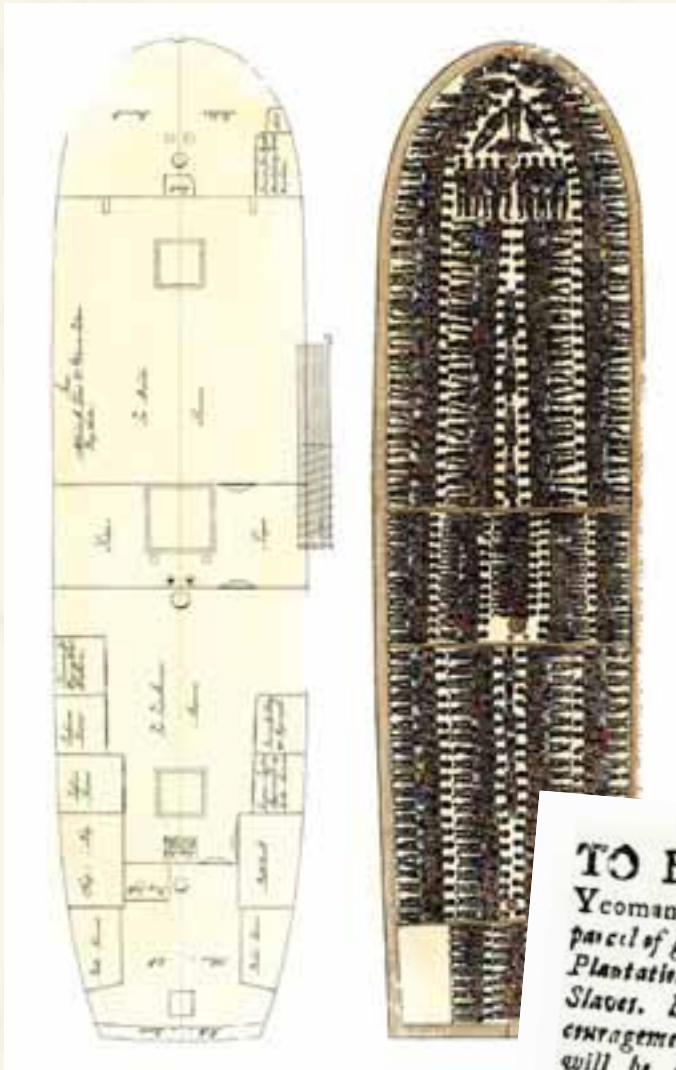
A huge number of Africans went through the Middle Passage during the Atlantic slave trade. Between nine and twelve million people were taken from Africa. Between one and two million of these died at sea. Only 4 to 5 percent of all slaves landed in North America. Most slaves were taken to Central America, the Caribbean, and South America.

The majority of enslaved Africans came from west and west-central Africa. Some were captured during wars. Others were sold into slavery because they committed crimes or owed money. European buyers bought captives from African sellers. Then the buyers shipped their captives across the Atlantic Ocean.

Africans faced terrible conditions as they crossed the Atlantic Ocean. The voyage is now called the Middle Passage. Their journey was filled with disease, brutality, and death. African captives were often chained to one another. Sometimes they were chained for the entire trip. The journey could take several months.

Starvation, disease, and infection killed countless people during the Middle Passage. Illnesses such as scurvy, dysentery, malaria, mumps, and measles were common. Between 11 and 16 percent of the captives died at sea.

The Africans who arrived in the Americas entered a frightening new life. They would face backbreaking



Captured Africans were packed into ships to cross the Atlantic Ocean.

This advertisement announces the selling of slaves in Charleston, South Carolina in 1744.

TO BE SOLD by William
 Yeoman, (in Charles Town Merchant,) a
 parcel of good
 Plantation
 Slaves. En-
 couragement
 will be gi-
 ven by selling
 Rice in Pay-
 ment, or any
 good Troop-
 ing saddles and Furniture, choice Barbados
 and Boston Rum, also Cordial Waters
 and Limejuice, as well as a parcel of extraor-
 dinary Indian trading Goods, and many of o-
 ther sorts suitable for the Season.



work, foreigners with strange languages and customs,
 and a lifetime without freedom.



Chapter Three

A Changing Nation



Eventually there were slaves in all of the British colonies. At first, imported Africans were similar to indentured servants. After working for a fixed number of years they were set free. However, as the colonies grew, the owners started losing money. Farmers and tradesmen needed a steady source of cheap labor. It was expensive to free experienced workers and train new ones.

Starting in the mid-1600s colonists wrote a series of slave codes. These laws defined slavery. They took away the rights of slaves. The codes said that all slaves and children of enslaved women were enslaved for life.

Each colony had its own set of slave codes. Some codes were harsher than others. Slavery did not play the same role in every area. In the 1700s slaves were especially important in the southern colonies of Maryland, Virginia,

Slave families could be sold apart at any time. This South Carolina family was fortunate to have stayed together.

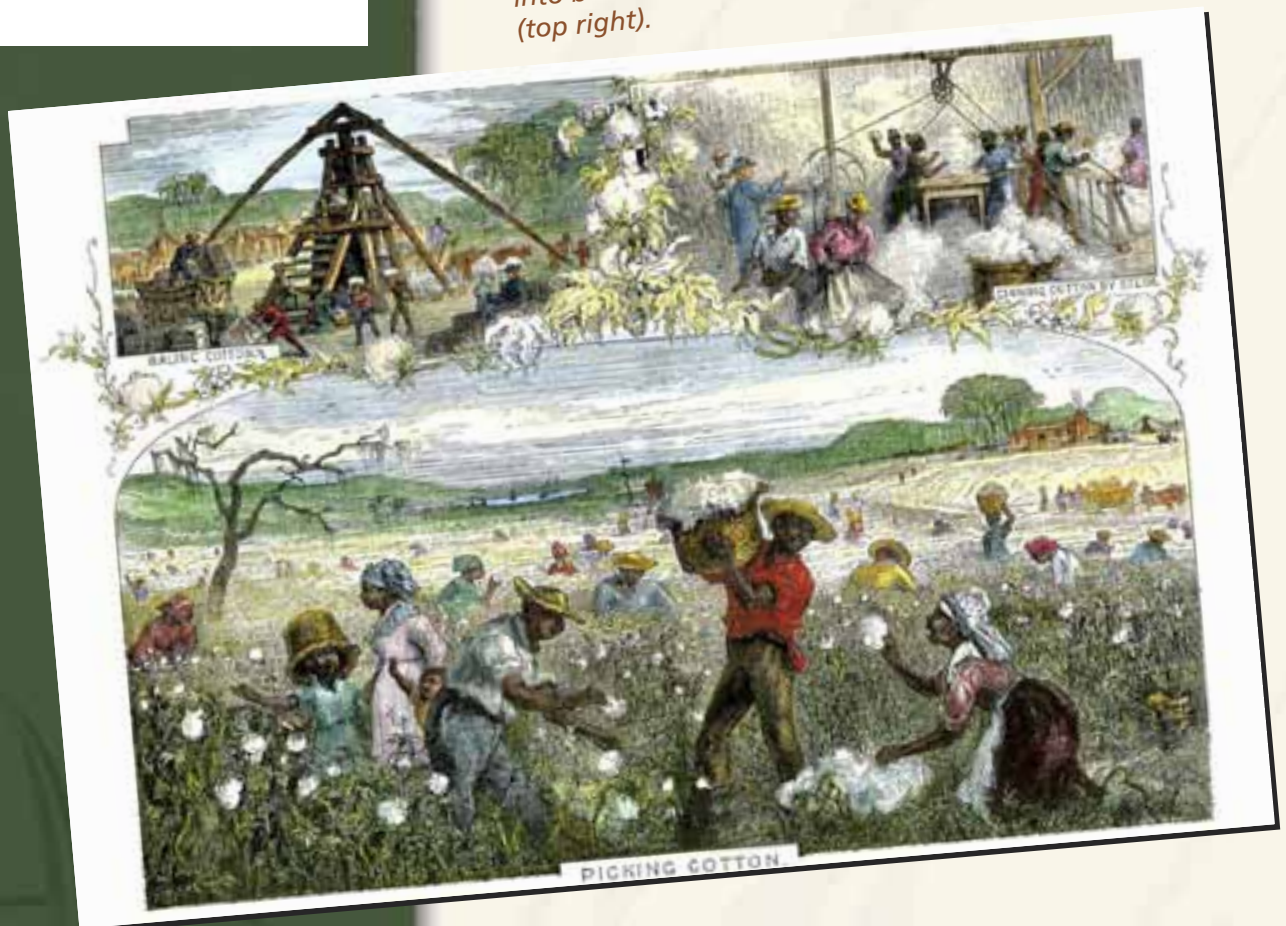
AS IF A MURDER NEVER HAPPENED

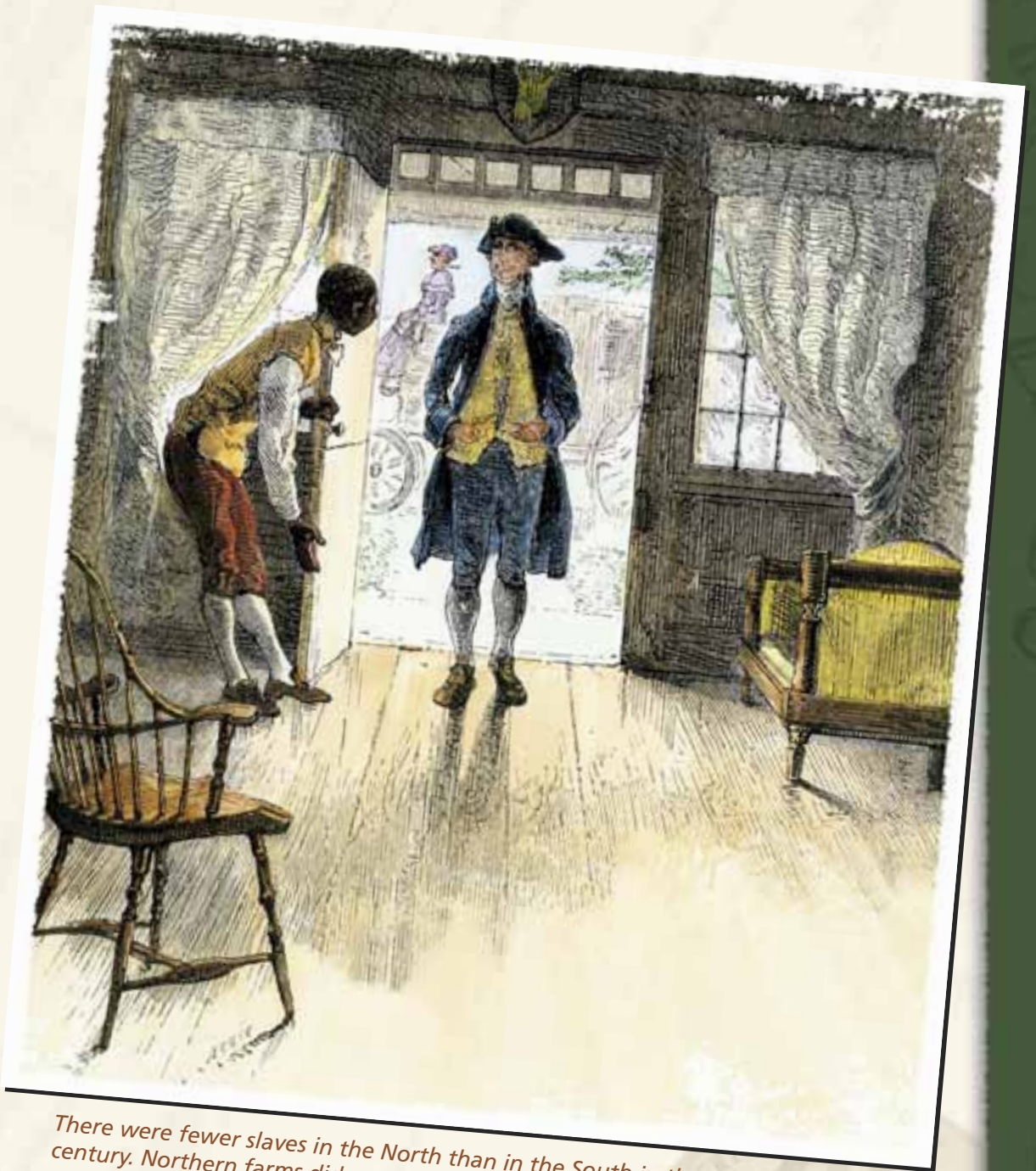
The 1705 Virginia slave codes gave white owners the right to punish their human property as they saw fit. Even murder was allowed. "If any slave . . . shall happen to be killed in [disobeying], it shall not be accounted felony; but the master . . . shall be free . . . of all punishment . . . as if such incident had never happened."

North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. In these colonies plantation owners needed many workers to grow crops such as rice and tobacco.

Northern colonies, on the other hand, did not have the right weather to grow those crops. Instead enslaved Africans did household chores and worked in trade shops.

Slaves harvested cotton (bottom), gathered it into bales (top left), and ginned it, or cleaned it (top right).





There were fewer slaves in the North than in the South in the eighteenth century. Northern farms did not need as many laborers. Most northern slaves were household servants or worked in shops.

A POLITICIAN'S PERSPECTIVE ON SLAVERY

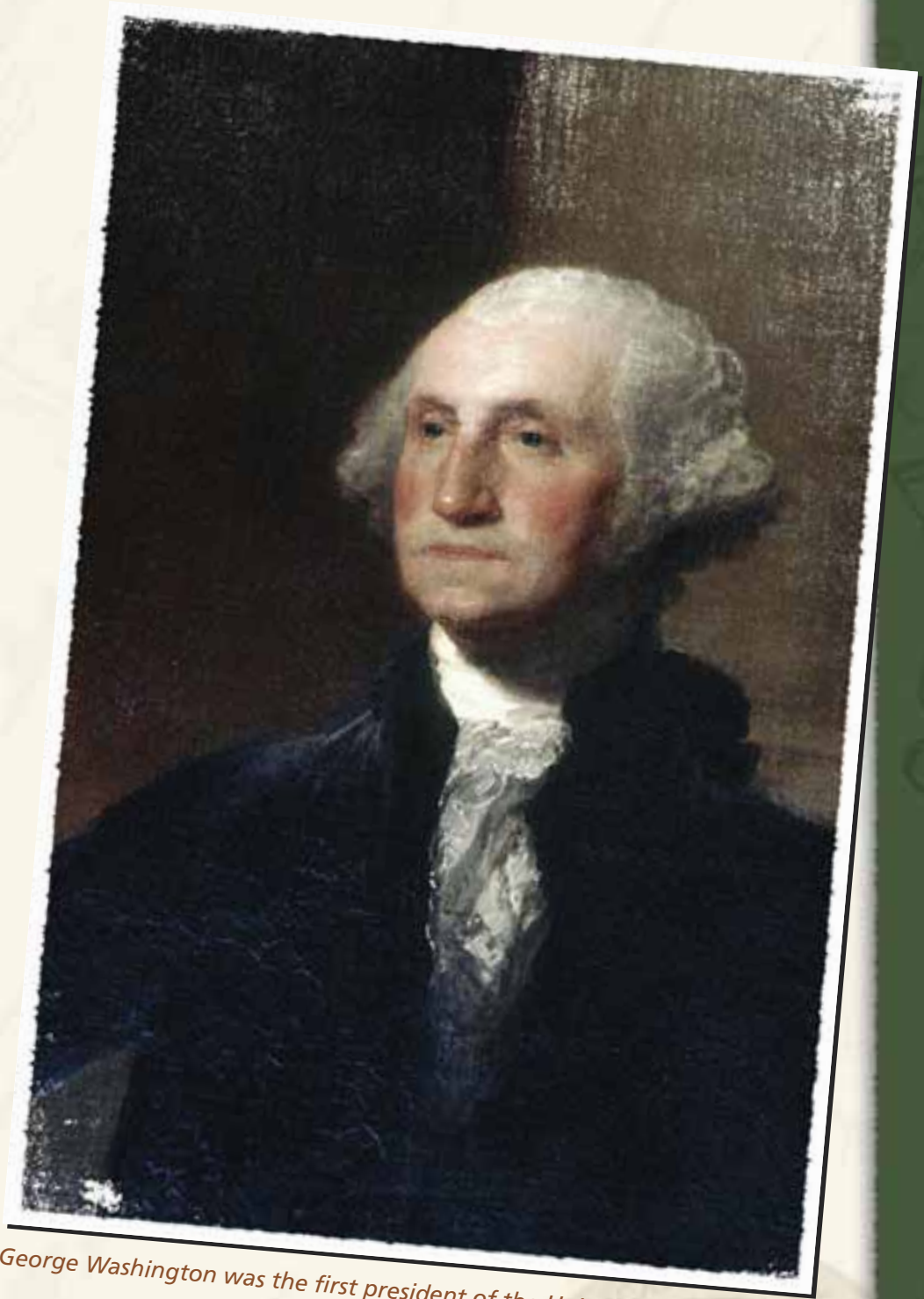
Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence. He served as the third president of the United States. He did not believe in equality between blacks and whites. He also owned slaves himself. However, he was concerned about slavery in the United States. He hoped slavery would be stopped eventually. In the late 1700s he wrote, "Nobody wishes more . . . to see an abolition, not only of the trade, but of the condition of slavery. . . ."

Slavery was much less a part of northern culture than southern culture. Slaves were only 5 percent of the population in the North by the second half of the 1700s. In the South, slaves made up 40 percent of the population.

The culture of slavery began to change during the 1700s. American-born slaves started to replace African captives. Southern farmers came to rely on slave populations born in North America. Men and women born as slaves expected a life of labor. A slave owner's wealth increased every time another enslaved child was born. Slave owners grew rich by keeping other human beings in **bondage**.

Colonists fought the Revolutionary War (1775–1783) to gain national liberty. They declared their independence and won freedom from Great Britain. But were early Americans ready to grant the same freedoms to their slaves?

By the end of the 1700s Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and



George Washington was the first president of the United States.

other founding fathers debated slavery. These men were uncomfortable with the idea of Americans owning slaves.

As the United States grew, many of the nation's founders did not want slavery to spread into new

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

*—The Declaration of Independence,
1776*

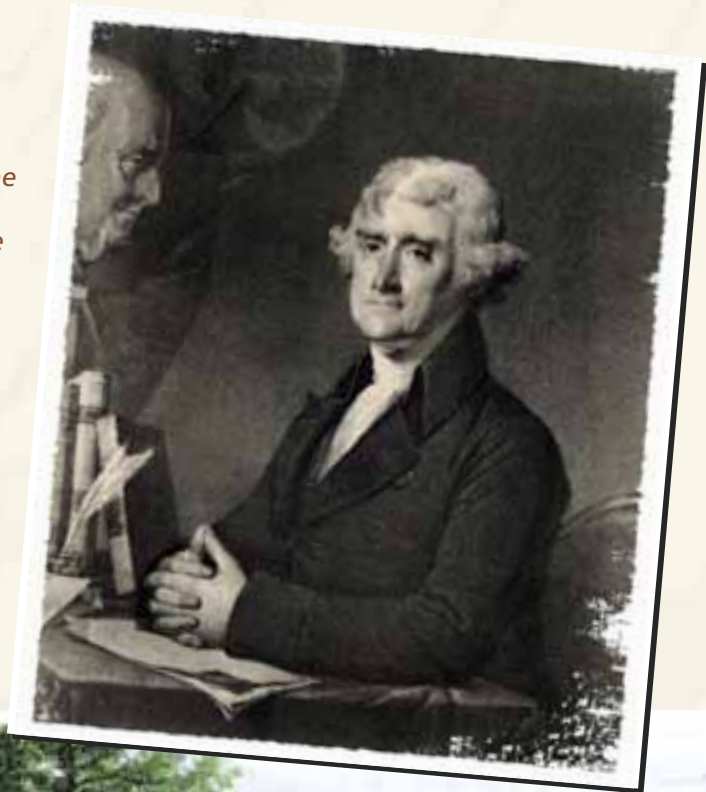
territories. However, they saw no easy way to end slavery. They feared an end to slavery would hurt the southern economy. They could not imagine what to do with the freed slaves.

Whites at this time did not believe blacks could ever be their equals. Jefferson and Washington themselves were

slaveholders. However, they privately admitted that slavery went against the ideals of the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights. These documents promised basic rights and equality. How could those ideas hold true in a land with slavery?

In the century that followed, these questions were constantly debated. In the North antislavery ideas were spreading. By the 1830s abolitionists in the North were working hard to end slavery throughout the country. Northern and southern opinions about slavery would continue to grow apart until the Civil War answered the question forever.

Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence and was the third president of the United States.



George Washington believed in the basic rights and freedoms in the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights. However, he kept slaves at his plantation, Mount Vernon.



Chapter Four

Life under the Lash



The late 1700s through the early 1800s was a time of many changes. The United States was a new, independent nation. Citizens were changing their feelings about slavery. Some lawmakers started pushing harder to stop slavery from spreading.

In July 1787 Congress passed the Northwest Ordinance. This act defined the Northwest Territory, which included much of the present-day Midwest. The act explained how new states would be made. It said that slavery was banned north of the Ohio River between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River. Twenty-one years later Congress stopped the Atlantic slave trade. Stopping the slave trade from Africa did not change slavery in the South. Many blacks were born into slavery in the South. Slave owners did not need to import Africans any more.

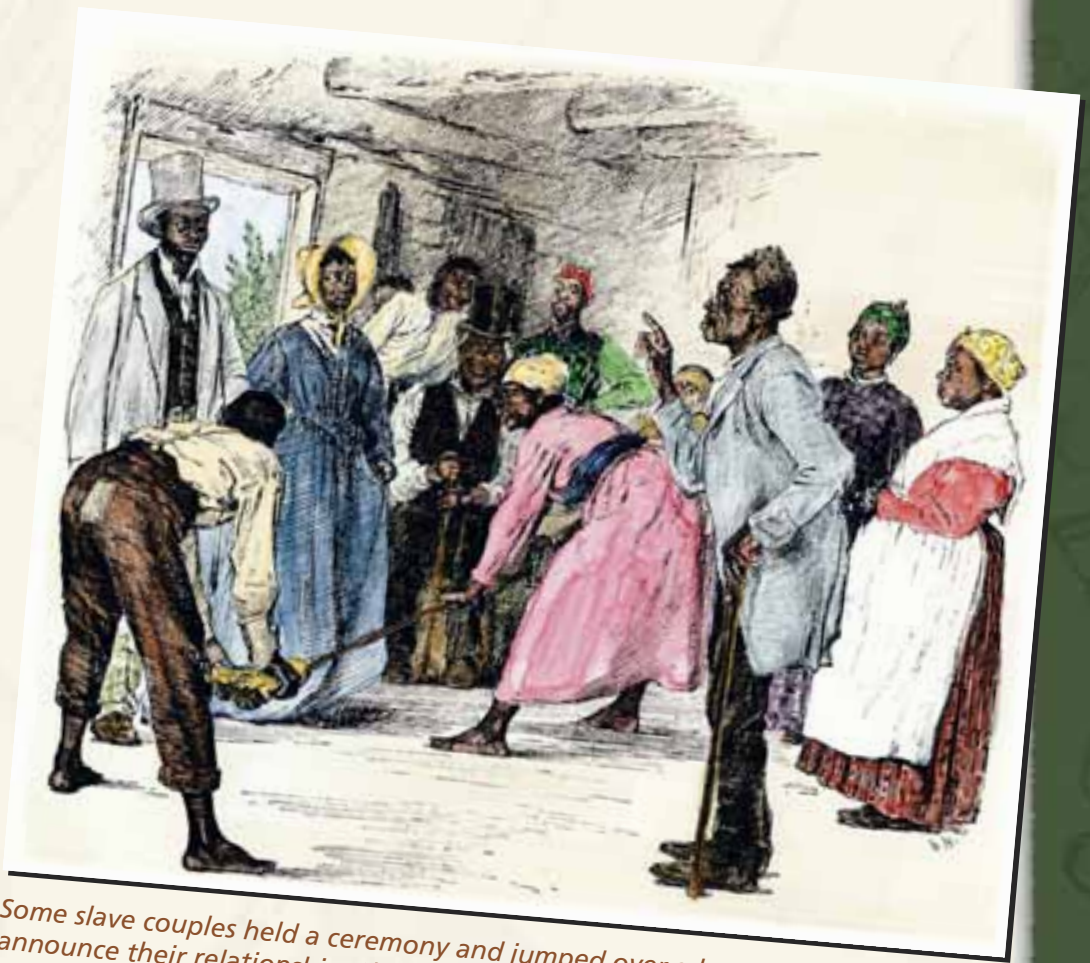
This woman was sold away from her family.

THE RISKS OF RUNNING AWAY

Angry white slave owners often hunted down escapees with dogs and guns. Runaways who were caught were beaten and sometimes killed. Slaves were known to receive 200 lashes with a whip after they were returned to their masters.

Most southern states supported slavery even when people started to question the system. For a short time after the Revolutionary War southern states allowed slaveholders to free their slaves if they wanted. However, southern governments soon made it more difficult for slaveholders to free their slaves. Northern states, on the other hand, began to **abolish** slavery. New laws abolished slavery right away or set a date to stop slavery. Yet northern laws did nothing to help slaves in the South.

Though white masters generally did not think they were cruel, even well-treated slaves did not control their own lives. Most men and women worked in the fields. Some women and children did chores in the master's home. A slave usually worked from sunrise to sunset. Slave owners made slaves work by beating or starving them. Certain workers called overseers rode through the fields on horseback. They whipped slaves who seemed slow or lazy.



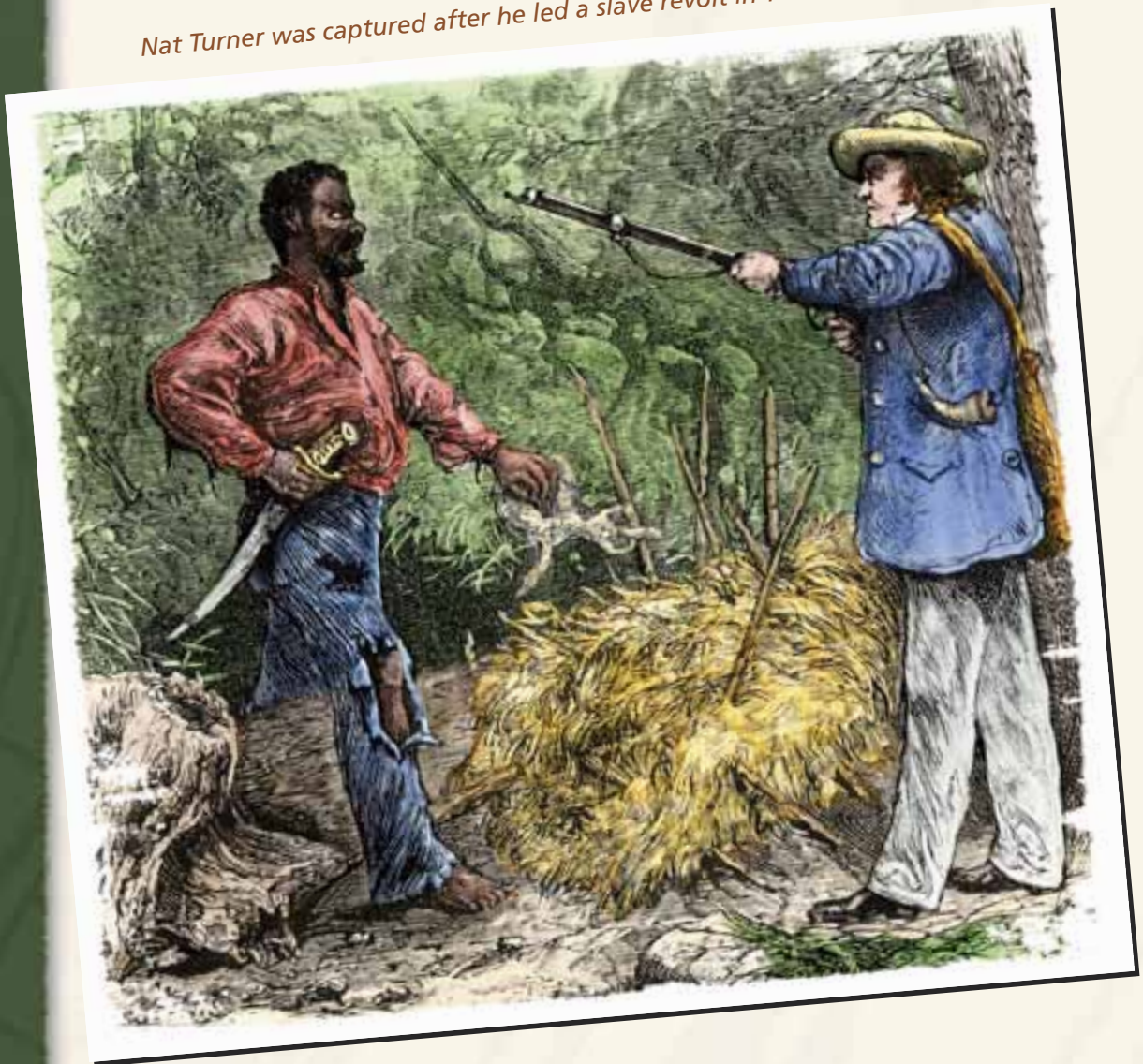
Some slave couples held a ceremony and jumped over a broomstick to announce their relationship. Slaves were not allowed to marry legally.

Slaves had no legal rights. They were treated as property by laws, customs, and society. The law did not recognize marriages between slaves. Masters could sell their slaves as they saw fit. Slave families could be torn apart at any moment, with children and parents all sold to different owners.

Any chance for freedom was very risky. Some slaves revolted against their masters. They used weapons and force to demand liberty. In 1822 a free African American named Denmark Vesey planned a rebellion in Charleston,

South Carolina. The plan was discovered before the revolt could happen. As a result, whites hanged Vesey and 35 people suspected of helping him. Just nine years later enslaved preacher Nat Turner led an uprising in Southampton County, Virginia. The rebellion lasted two days and killed more than 50 whites. About two months later Turner was captured and executed.

Nat Turner was captured after he led a slave revolt in 1831.





Slaves generally lived in small, poorly built cabins.

Southern masters were furious and frightened after slave rebellions. Many became extremely distrustful of their slaves. Some took away even more of their slaves' independence. Others used worse punishments to stop any rebellion among their slaves.

"We was [scared] of [the overseer] and his whip. . . . We'd set on the floor and pray with our heads down low and sing low, but if [the overseer] heard, he'd come and beat on the wall. . . . He'd say, 'I'll come in there and tear the hide off [your] backs.'"

—Mary Reynolds, former slave

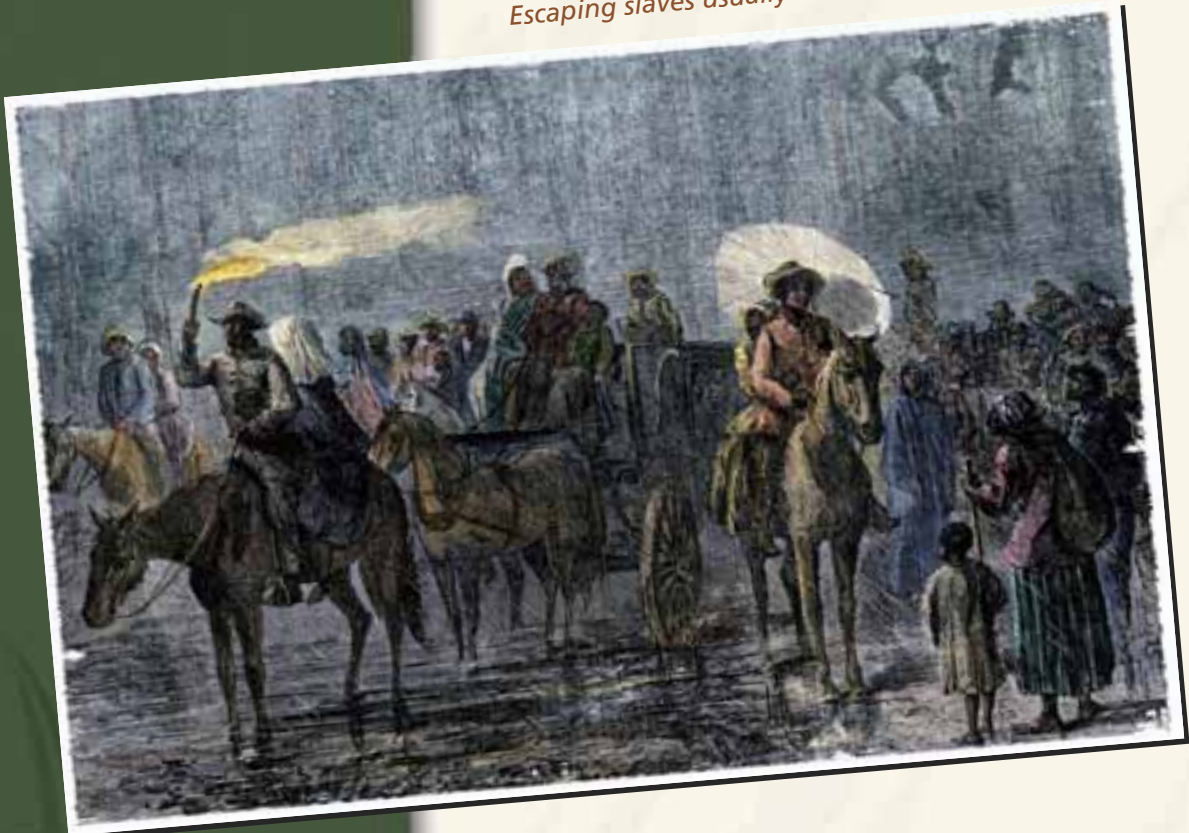
NAVIGATING WITH THE NORTH STAR

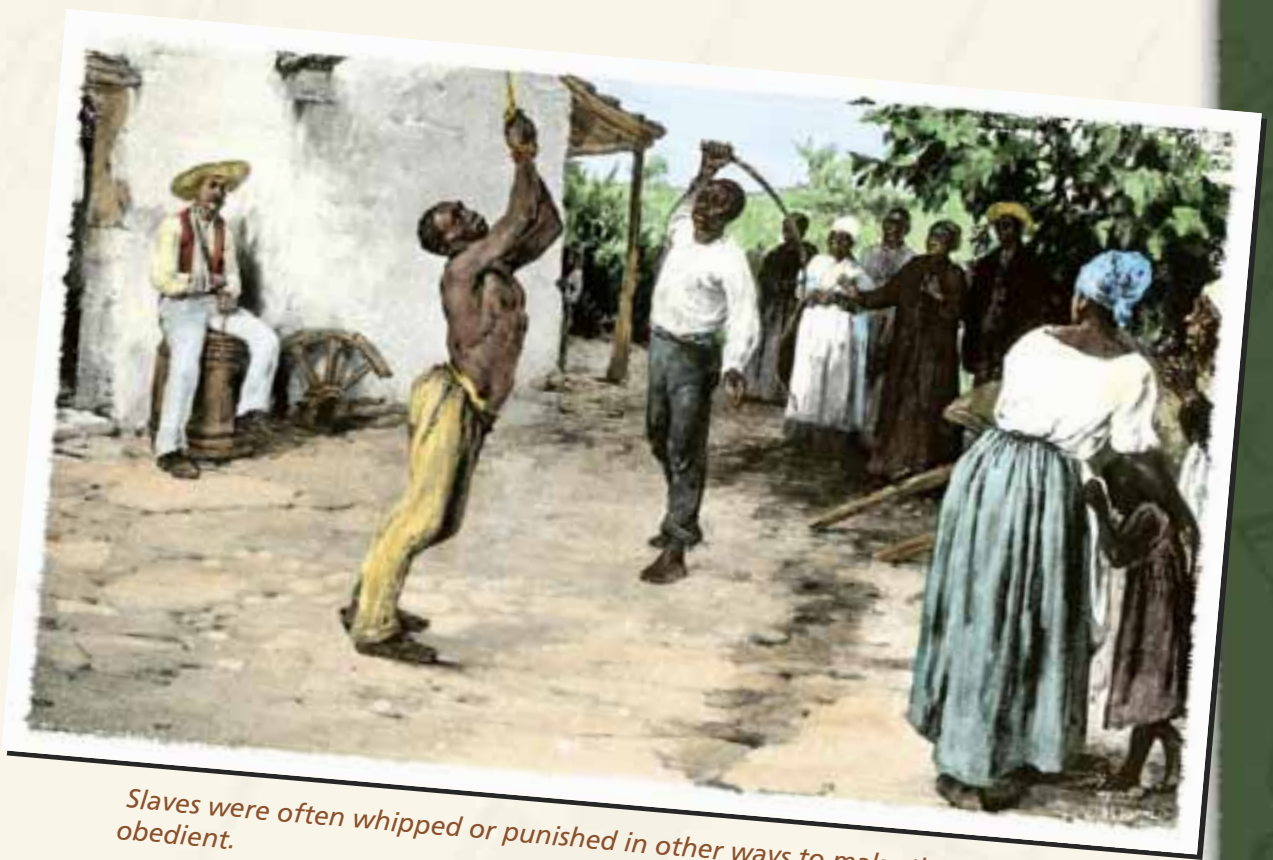
How did escaped slaves know which way to travel as they crept through unfamiliar places at night? Many looked to the North Star. This star always appears due north in the night sky. As long as runaways headed toward it they knew they were on the right road to freedom.

Many slaves tried to sneak away to Canada or one of the free states. Running away was also dangerous. Legally, masters who were trying to recover their runaway slaves could not be stopped. Laws said that anyone who found a runaway had to return that person to his or her owner.

On the long and difficult journey runaways often had trouble finding

Escaping slaves usually fled by night.



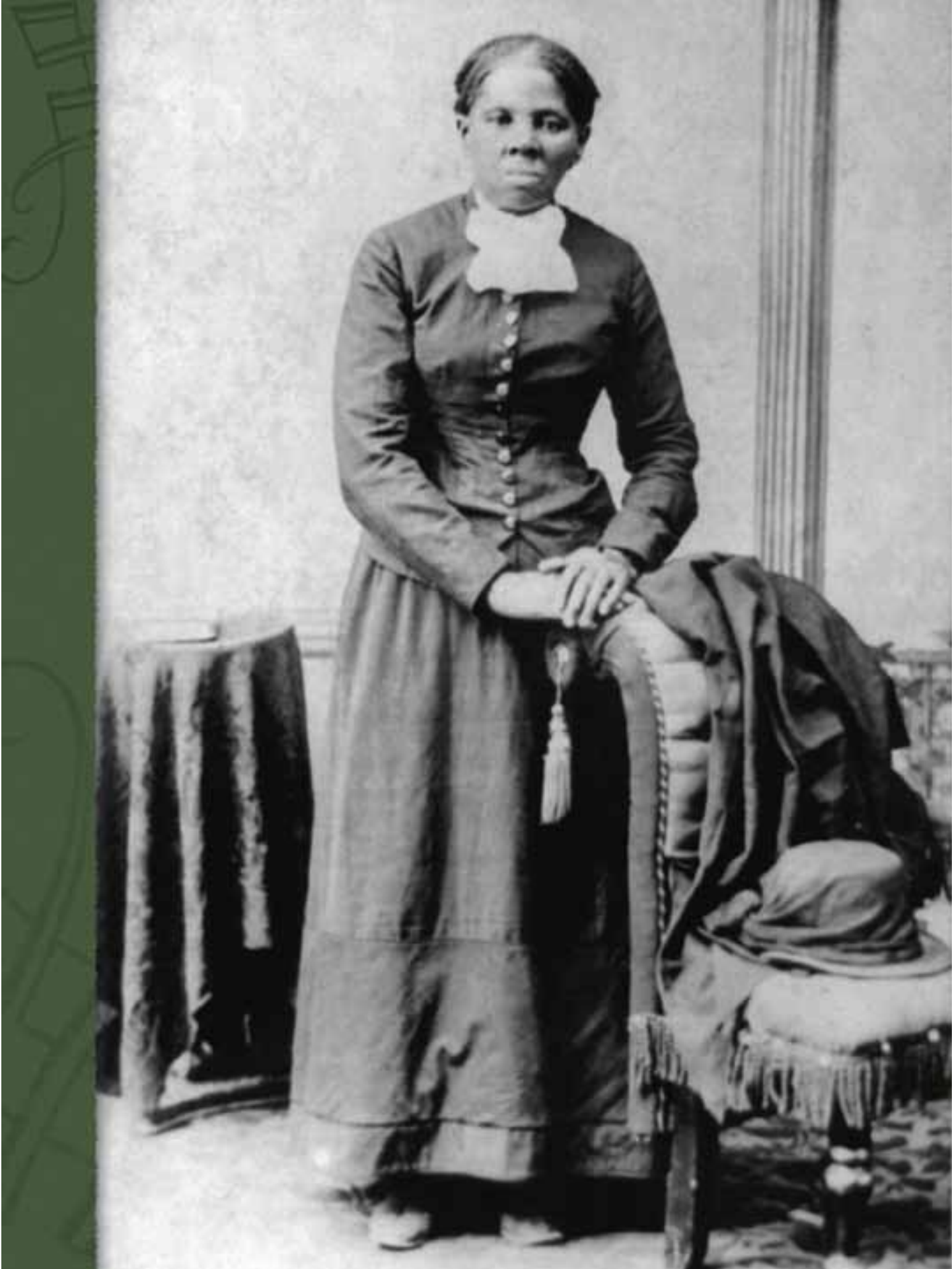


Slaves were often whipped or punished in other ways to make them be obedient.

food and water. They hid during the day and traveled through unfamiliar areas by night. If caught, the punishment would be severe. Of course one of the greatest sacrifices was leaving loved ones behind. Some runaways survived and resettled in Canada or one of the free states. In turn many of those free blacks worked to help others find liberty.

"Though I was not a murderer fleeing from justice, I felt perhaps quite as miserable as such a criminal. . . . The heart of no fox or deer, with hungry hounds on his trail in full chase, could have beaten more anxiously or noisily than did mine from the time I left Baltimore till I reached Philadelphia."

—Frederick Douglass



Chapter Five

The Final Days



During the 1800s the South grew angrier with northerners who helped escaped slaves. Many of these abolitionists, including Harriet Tubman, served as conductors or guides along a route called the **Underground Railroad**. Tubman was a former slave. She understood the horrors of slavery firsthand. She was dedicated to rescuing other enslaved people. She and her fellow conductors guided runaways to safe houses. There people would hide the freedom seekers from slave catchers. Conductors were committed to helping slaves reach the free states or Canada. Some historians believe that tens of thousands of slaves fled to the North by traveling the Underground Railroad.

After 1830 northern states were also known for their abolitionist journalists and public speakers. William Lloyd Garrison, a white man, published a newspaper

Harriet Tubman was a conductor for the Underground Railroad.

THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE

In the first half of the nineteenth century many conflicts over slavery concerned the territories of the Louisiana Purchase. The United States had bought this land from France in 1803. The huge area stretched from New Orleans in the South to present-day Minnesota in the North and Montana in the West. The U.S. government had to decide whether new states in these areas should allow slavery.

called *The Liberator*. Garrison made many people aware of the human suffering caused by slavery. Frederick Douglass, an author, public speaker, and former slave, spoke of his time in bondage. Douglass published several of his own newspapers and books including an autobiography of his time as a slave.

Many people in northern states did not want slavery to spread.

This map shows free and slave states after 1854.



Lawmakers in proslavery areas wanted slavery to be allowed in all new territories and states. In the **Missouri Compromise** of 1820 Congress decided that slavery would be prohibited north of a line drawn across the Louisiana Purchase. The exception to this rule was Missouri, which had recently asked to become a state. Missouri was north of the line but slavery was allowed there as part of the compromise. The result was 12 free states and 12 slave states.

"The blacks must be free. . . . Slavery is the bone we are fighting over. It must be got out of the way, to give us permanent peace."

—Abraham Lincoln, 1863

The decision made by Congress in 1820 did not end the conflict. During the 1850s it passed some new laws that disagreed with the Missouri Compromise. Lawmakers passed the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854. The act said that settlers in the Kansas and Nebraska territories could decide for themselves if they wanted to own slaves. This cancelled the Missouri Compromise. It angered antislavery Northerners including future president Abraham Lincoln.

Later in the 1850s tensions increased between the North and the South. A court case involving Dred Scott, a slave, made the problems worse. Scott was born into slavery in the South. His owner took him to live in Illinois and the Wisconsin Territory, both free areas. Later Scott moved back to Missouri with his owner. When the owner

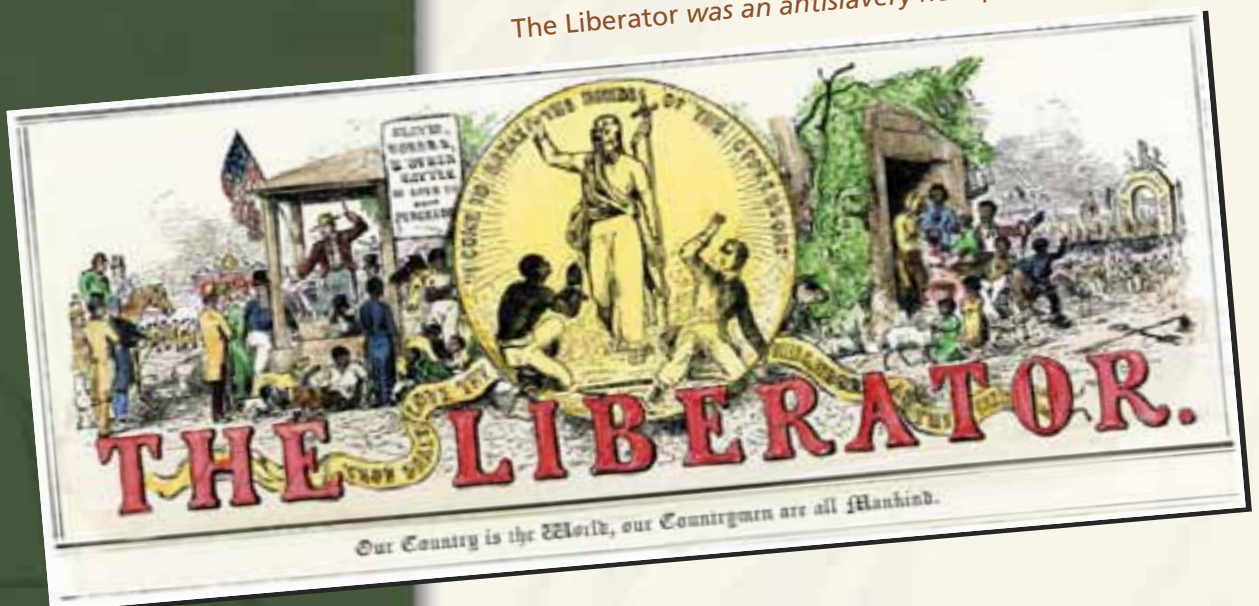
ONE STATE'S BLOODY BEGINNINGS

The Civil War did not start until 1861. However, there was fighting in Kansas in 1854 after the Kansas-Nebraska Act was passed. The Border War, also known as Bleeding Kansas, went on for almost four years. Proslavery and antislavery forces traded murders and raids. Each side fought to decide whether Kansas should allow slavery. In the end Kansas became a free state in 1861.

died, Scott went to court for his liberty. Scott argued that his time in free areas made him a free man even if he returned to a slave state.

Scott's case went before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1857. The judges said he had no right to file a lawsuit. They explained that blacks, whether free or slaves, were not U.S. citizens. They did not have basic rights. They also declared that Congress had no power to decide whether slavery should be allowed in new U.S. territories. The question of slavery continued to divide the country.

The Liberator was an antislavery newspaper.



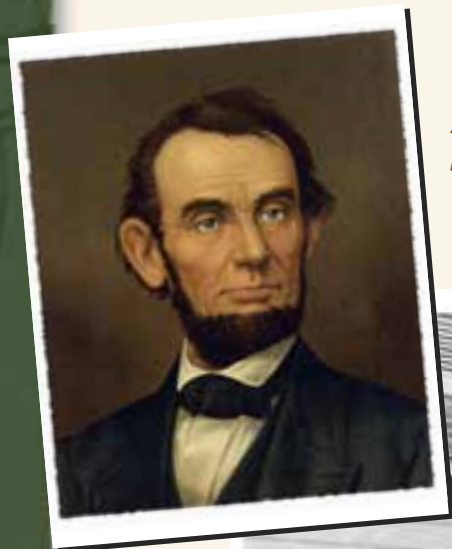


Frederick Douglass was an antislavery writer and speaker.

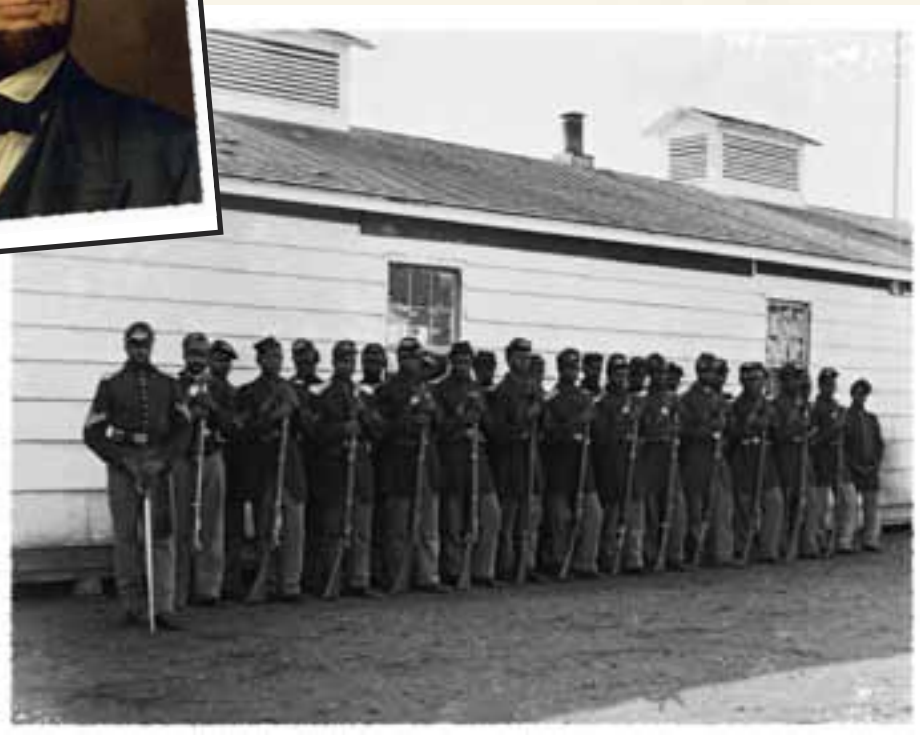


Dred Scott went to court for his freedom.

Abraham Lincoln was famous for his antislavery views. When he was elected president in 1860 some southern states were concerned. They worried that Lincoln would try to abolish slavery. In 1861 southern states started to **secede**, or withdraw, from the United States. They wanted to decide for themselves whether slavery should be allowed in each state. In April 1861 the Civil War began. The seceded southern states, known as the **Confederacy**, attacked a United States fort. This marked the start of the Civil War.



Abraham Lincoln was president during the Civil War.



Black soldiers fought for the North during the Civil War.

Over the course of four years, 180,000 blacks served in the northern army. Many blacks escaped slavery and headed north to help the **Union**. Yet even in the Union army, blacks were not treated the same as white troops. A number of northerners were against slavery but still held racist views. At first blacks were only given jobs such as cooking and working in camps. Later some were allowed to fight.

Lincoln's **Emancipation Proclamation** took effect in January 1863. The proclamation freed all slaves who lived in the Confederacy. However, a proslavery government controlled most of the South. Slavery would not end until the Union won the war.

By the spring of 1865 the main forces of the Confederacy surrendered to the Union army. Congress passed the Thirteenth Amendment the following December. This change to the U.S. Constitution abolished slavery everywhere in the nation. The Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments were added within five years. These amendments defined U.S. citizenship and protected the right for black men to vote.

Although millions of people had been freed, it would be another century before they gained the equality and respect they deserved. During Reconstruction, the period following the Civil War, African Americans faced poverty, violence, and discrimination. They fought for their rights well into the twentieth century.

Today the descendants of the slaves who suffered across the Middle Passage, labored endlessly in southern farm fields, and sometimes died fighting for their liberty can live with pride. Everyone can treasure the freedoms that now truly define the nation.

"I looked at my hands to see if I was the same person now that I was free. There was such a glory over everything; the sun came like gold through the trees and over the fields, and I felt like I was in heaven."

—Harriet Tubman

Biographies



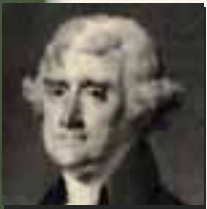
Frederick Douglass (1817?–1895)

Douglass was born into slavery in Maryland but escaped to freedom. Once in the North, he became a famous antislavery speaker, author, and publisher. After the Civil War, Douglass fought for better treatment of African Americans and women.



William Lloyd Garrison (1805–1879)

Garrison was a famous white northern abolitionist. He published the antislavery newspaper *The Liberator*. He also helped found the New England Antislavery Society and the American Antislavery Society.



Thomas Jefferson (1743–1826)

Jefferson was the third president of the United States. He was the main author of the Declaration of Independence. He owned slaves and did not believe that whites and blacks were equal. Yet he hoped that some day the United States would end slavery. As president, Jefferson outlawed U.S. involvement in the Atlantic slave trade starting in 1808.



Abraham Lincoln (1809–1865)

Lincoln was the sixteenth president of the United States. He served from 1861 to 1865 during the Civil War. A quiet, honest politician from Illinois, he was openly against slavery. His election prompted several southern states to secede. Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. He was assassinated shortly after the Civil War ended in 1865.

Dred Scott (1799–1858)

Scott was a slave who sued for his freedom before the Civil War. He claimed that he was free because he had lived in a free state. The Supreme Court said blacks had no legal rights, so he could not sue. The children of his original master granted him his freedom in May 1857.



Harriet Tubman (1820?–1913)

Tubman was born a slave in Maryland. She escaped to freedom in the late 1840s. She was one of the most famous conductors on the Underground Railroad. During the Civil War, Tubman was a nurse and a spy for the Union army. Later she worked for better rights for African Americans and women.



Nat Turner (1800–1831)

Nat Turner was a slave preacher in Southampton County, Virginia. In the summer of 1831 he and approximately 60 or 70 other slaves began a two-day revolt. They murdered more than 50 whites. Turner was captured two months later and hanged with 35 others.



Timeline

August 1619 ➤

The first Africans arrive in the British colonies in North America.



Late 1700s

Slaves make up 5 percent of the population in the North but 40 percent of the population in the South.

1808

Congress makes it illegal to buy slaves from Africa.

1822

Denmark Vesey plots a rebellion in Charleston, South Carolina.

1854 ▼

Congress passes the Kansas-Nebraska Act.



1787

Congress passes the Northwest Ordinance.

1820

Congress passes the Missouri Compromise.

1854–1858

The Border War, or Bleeding Kansas, divides Kansas Territory.

July 4, 1776

Colonial leaders draft the Declaration of Independence.

1831

Nat Turner carries out a slave rebellion in Southampton County, Virginia.

1857

The U.S. Supreme Court dismisses the Dred Scott case.

April 1861 ►

The Civil War officially begins when the South attacks Fort Sumter.



April 1865

The bulk of Confederate forces surrender to Union troops, ending the Civil War.

November 1860

Abraham Lincoln is elected president.

1868

The Fourteenth Amendment is officially added to the U.S. Constitution.

December 1860

Southern states begin to secede from the Union.

1859

The country's largest slave auction occurs just outside Savannah, Georgia.

1870

The Fifteenth Amendment is officially added to the U.S. Constitution.

December 1865

The Thirteenth Amendment is officially added to the U.S. Constitution.

January 1, 1863

The Emancipation Proclamation goes into effect.

Glossary

abolish (uh-BOL-ish): end officially

abolitionists (ab-uh-LISH-uh-nists): men and women who worked to end slavery immediately

bondage (BON-dij): slavery

Confederacy (kuhk-FED-ur-uh-see): the states that seceded from the United States; the South

Emancipation Proclamation (i-MAN-si-pay-shun prok-la-MAY-shun): Lincoln's order that freed slaves in the Confederacy

indentured servants (in-DEN-churd SUR-vuhnts): laborers who work for a set period of time

plantations (plan-TAY-shuhns): large farms that need many workers

Missouri Compromise (mi-ZUR-ee KOM-pruh-mize): an 1820 agreement that was supposed to prevent fighting over slavery

secede (si-SEED): to withdraw from a group or organization

Underground Railroad (UHN-der-ground RAYL-rohd): secret networks that helped slaves to freedom before the Civil War

Union (YOON-yuhn): the states that did not secede from the United States; the North

Websites

**National Geographic for Kids—
The Underground Railroad**
[www.nationalgeographic.com/
railroad/kids.html](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/railroad/kids.html)

**Social Studies for Kids—
Slavery in America**
[www.socialstudiesforkids.com/
subjects/slavery.htm](http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/subjects/slavery.htm)

**The University of North Carolina
at Greensboro—Remembering
Slavery: Those Who Survived to
Tell Their Stories**
[www.uncg.edu/~jpbrewer/
remember](http://www.uncg.edu/~jpbrewer/remember)

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